

Table IV.B-1
Types of Regulated Pollutants

Pollutant	Description
Conventional Pollutants	Conventional pollutants are contained in the sanitary wastes of households, commercial establishments, and industries. These wastes include human wastes, sand, leaves, trash, ground-up food from sink disposals, and laundry and bath wastes. Five specific pollutants are considered conventional pollutants, as listed below.
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	This parameter measures the quantity of oxygen used in aerobic oxidation of the organic matter in a sample of wastewater.
Total Suspended Solids	This parameter is a measure of the concentration of solid particles suspended in wastewater.
Fecal Coliform	The bacteriological quality of water is based on testing for nonpathogenic indicator organisms, principally the coliform group. Fecal coliform bacteria are used as a measure of health risk because they are more easily detected and pathogens. Fecal coliform bacteria are found in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. Their presence in water indicates the potential presence of pathogenic organisms.
pH	pH is a measure of acidity or alkalinity. pH is measured on a scale of 1 to 14:1 being extremely acidic, 7 neutral, and 14 extremely alkaline. Most healthy surface waters have nearly neutral pH; i.e., they are neither strongly acidic nor alkaline.
Oil and Grease	This parameter is a measure of the concentration of a variety of organic substances including hydrocarbons, fats, oils, waxes, and high-molecular fatty acids. These pollutants degrade receiving-water quality when present in excessive amounts. They also are a concern to municipal and industrial waste treatment because they reduce the biological treatability of the waste and produce sludge solids that are difficult to process.
Toxic Pollutants	Toxic pollutants represent a list of 126 pollutants that are particularly harmful to one or more forms of animal or plant life. They are primarily grouped into organics and metals.
Organic Pollutants	These pollutants include pesticides, solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), and dioxins.
Metals	The metals of concern include lead, silver, mercury, copper, chromium, zinc, nickel, and cadmium.
Nonconventional Pollutants	Non-conventional pollutants are any additional substances that are not in the grouping "conventional" or "toxic" that may require regulation. These include nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Source:
Environmental Protection Agency (1990).